

* 252590 FIRD CH
* 25445 REDDIE G
* 17.10.84
* NM/KG

* ATTN J C MANDIRATTA ESQ

* EP PAT APP 83 305 690.6
* PM 1110/1124
* OUR 25686

* FURTHER TO OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THIS MORNING, THE
* FOLLOWING IS A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE RISKS
* OF INFRINGEMENT.

* SINCE PM 1096 (23.07.82) AND 1110, 1111, 1125, 1126
* (30.09.82) ARE ALL DESCRIBED IN U.S. ORIGINATING APPLICATIONS
* HAVING AN EARLIER PRIORITY THAN REYNOLDS, THE LATTER CANNOT
* OBTAIN VALID CLAIMS COVERING THESE STRUCTURES AS DISCLOSED, AND
* THE RISK OF INFRINGEMENT DOES NOT ARISE..

* OUR PM 1124 (EP 83 305690.6 FIGS 9-17) IS THE ONLY
* STRUCTURE HAVING A PRIORITY DATE LATER THAN REYNOLDS'
* APPLICATION, BUT THE STRUCTURE OF PM 1124 IS SUFFICIENTLY
* DIFFERENT FROM REYNOLDS CLAIMS (AND STRUCTURE). REYNOLDS
* MAIN CLAIM REQUIRES THAT THE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN A FIRST
* DILUTION OPENING FORMED IN THE FILTER SURFACE AND A SECOND
* OPENING IN ONE OF A PLURALITY OF OVERLYING BANDS IS VARIED
* BY ROTATING AN OUTER BAND/INNER BAND UNIT RELATIVE TO AN INNER/
* BAND/FILTER PLUG UNIT. THIS IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO APPLY
* TO PM 1124. IN FIGS 9 AND 15 THERE ARE NOT TWO BANDS
* ENCIROCLING THE PLUG, UNLESS ONE COUNTS THE PLUG WRAP 1128,
* IN WHICH CASE IDENTIFICATION OF THE OPENINGS BECAME IMPOSSIBLE.
* IN FIG 12 ONE MIGHT POSSIBLY REGARD THE SPACED RINGS 1111 AND
* 1117 AS TOGETHER CONSTITUTING AN INNER BAND, BUT THEIR RELATIVE
* ROTATION OF THE TWO 'UNITS' CAUSES VARIATION IN RADIAL ALIGNMENT
* ONLY BETWEEN PERFORATIONS 112 AND DEPRESSIONS 110. NOT ONLY
* ARE THE LATTER NOT 'OPENINGS IN THE PLUG SURFACE' BUT THIS
* VARIATION HAS NO EFFECT ON DILUTION, WHICH INSTEAD IS DUE TO
* LONGITUDINAL ALIGNMENT OF DEPRESSIONS 110 WITH THE LANDS BETWEEN
* DEPRESSIONS 109.

* THIS APPEARS TO BE EXTREMELY COMPLICATED AND CONFUSING, BUT IT
* ARISES FROM AND EXEMPLIFIES THE FACT THAT REYNOLDS ARE DEFINING
* A STRUCTURE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM PM 1124 AND NEVER CONTEMPLATED
* THE USE OF A TWO-PART FILTER PLUG WITH COLLINEAR INTERCHANGEABLE
* GROOVES.

* MY CONCLUSION IS BASED ON REYNOLDS CLAIMS AND STRUCTURE,
* HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF OUR OTHER DISCLOSURES OF EARLIER DATE, THE
* CLAIMS ARE MOST UNLIKELY TO REMAIN IN THIS FORM.

* PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS.

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